

Message Text

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22

ACTION EA-09

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

OMB-01 /078 W

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R 070541Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4525

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 0622

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MY, SN

SUBJ: MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO SINGAPORE

REF: SINGAPORE 0615

1. IN REMARKS TO REPORTERS AFTER DEPARTURE OF MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER DATUK HUSSEIN ONN, PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW SUGGESTED THAT QUIET DIPLOMACY WAS BEST TOOL TO FORGE CLOSER CO-OPERATION BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE. HE CAUTIONED PEOPLE AGAINST EXPECTING "MIRACLES" AS RESULT OF TWO-DAY MEETING, BUT SAID HE AND DATUK HUSSEIN HAD AGREED TO HOLD MORE SUCH REGULAR MEETINGS SINCE THEY ARE ESPECIALLY USEFUL AS BOOSTERS FOR "ON-GOING" PROJECTS WHICH MAY HAVE GOTTEN SLUGGISH OR STALLED. LEE SAID HE HOPED TO MEET DATUK HUSSEIN AGAIN AT THE ASEAN SUMMIT IN BALI AND, PERHAPS LATER IN THE YEAR, VISIT KUALA LUMPUR.

2. LEE DESCRIBED DATUK HUSSEIN AS "A MAN WITH A FORTHRIGHT
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APPROACH TO DISCUSSIONS WHICH I FIND CONGENIAL". HE SAID HE

WAS CONFIDENT THAT HIS WORKING RELATIONS WITH DATUK HUSSEIN WOULD BE AS CLOSE AS WITH TUN ABDUL RAZAK.

3. WHEN ASKED IF HE WAS IN FAVOR OF INDOCHINA REGIMES JOINING ASEAN, LEE SAID "THE STRONGER THE ECONOMIC LINKS AND POLITICAL COHESIVENESS OF ASEAN, THE BETTER WE WILL BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENTS OF VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, AND LAOS". HOWEVER, HE SAID, INDOCHINA JOINING ASEAN WAS LIKE BRUSSELS INVITING WARSAW PACT TO JOIN EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET.

4. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF HUSSEIN ONN'S PRESS CONFERENCE EARLIER IN THE DAY, WHICH WERE NOT COVERED BY REFTEL. ENTIRE PRESS CONFERENCE CARRIED ON TV SINGAPORE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 6.

5. WHEN ASKED IF PROPOSALS FOR ASEAN FREE TRADE ZONE WILL COME OUT OF BALI SUMMIT, HUSSEIN SAID IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE TO INTRODUCE NEW MATTERS AT THIS STAGE SINCE THE RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY MADE KNOWN THEIR VIEWS AT MEETING OF ASEAN TRADE MINISTERS IN JAKARTA. THESE "DISCUSSIONS" WILL BE SUBMITTED TO BALI SUMMIT FOR CONSIDERATION.

6. WITH REGARD TO WHAT MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS WILL RESULT FROM SUMMIT, HE SAID, LEAVING ASIDE SPECIFIC MATTERS, "THE FACT THAT WE GOT TOGETHER IS, I CONSIDER, A MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT". WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF INVITING AUSTRALIA, JAPAN, AND NEW ZEALAND TO THE SUMMIT, HE SAID IT WOULD BE MOST INAPPROPRIATE FOR THESE COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY.

7. RESPONDING TO QUESTION ON SECURITY SITUATION IN MALAYSIA, HE SAID IT IS WELL UNDER CONTROL. "THE COMMUNISTS CAN BLOW UP ANY NUMBER OF MONUMENTS. WE CAN BUILD MORE BUT THIS DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THERE IS A DETERIORATION IN THE SITUATION". ASKED ABOUT DISAFFECTION FELT BY CHINESE YOUTHS BECAUSE OF THE BUMIPUTRA POLICY, DATUK HUSSEIN SAID THE POLICY WAS TO CREATE RACIAL UNITY, BUT LAPSES HAD OCCURRED IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION WHICH WERE BEING PUT RIGHT. "IT WAS UNACCEPTABLE, THEREFORE, TO BLAME THE TROUBLES IN MALAYSIA, THAT IS COMMUNIST TERRORISM, SOLELY ON THE DISAFFECTION FELT BY CHINESE YOUTHS".

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8. ON AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, HE STATED "US INVOLVEMENT PER SE IS NEVER HARMFUL BUT WHAT KIND OF INVOLVEMENT DO THE AMERICANS WANT? IS IT MILITARY, DIPLOMATIC, OR ECONOMIC? OF COURSE, WE WELCOME AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT BUT UNDER WHICH OF THE THREE SPHERES WILL THE INVOLVEMENT COME UNDER? THAT IS THE QUESTION".

9. TEXT OF PRESS CONFERENCE BEING POUCHED EA/IMS AND EMBASSY
KUALA LUMPUR. HOLDRIDGE

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